

STAFF NOTES:

HR.

Chinese Affairs

Top Secret

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China Emphasizes Moderation; Leadership Differences Remain

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The personnel appointments and policy statements approved by China's Fourth National People's Congress are clearly designed to stress moderation and continuity. The brevity of the congress, the first in a decade, and the initial secrecy in which it was held suggest, however, that leadership differences have not yet been ironed out fully.

The reappointment of Chou En-lai as premier, and the naming of his close ally, Yeh Chien-ying, to the sensitive post of defense minister, underscores Chou's continuing power and prestige as a senior policy maker.

Teng Hsiao-ping, elevated to the Politburo standing committee and named a vice chairman by the Central Committee plenum, which preceded the congress, appears to be Chou's logical successor.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung, who attended neither the plenum nor the congress, has now been away from Peking for over six months. Only once before has Mao been absent from the capital for a longer time, and that was immediately before the onset of the Cultural Revolution when, Mao complained later, he was being circumvented and ignored by political opponents.

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If Mao has remained in the countryside as a political gesture, it is likely that he is "sulk-ing in his tent" and has not been deliberately excluded from the capital.

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The communique issued at the conclusion of the congress makes relatively little mention of Mao personally. The guiding role of "Mao Tse-tung Thought," however, was written into the new constitution and the chairman of the party was designated commander of the armed forces.

All of this suggests that the Chairman is still a very active force in Chinese politics.

The congress approved a list of 12 vice premiers, down from 15 before the Cultural Revolution. Teng Hsiao-ping heads the list, followed by Shanghai party boss Chang Chun-chiao, who gave the report on the revision of the state constitution on behalf of the party Central Committee. This assignment is another indication that Chang is acting in the post of party secretary general, although he has never been publicly identified in that role.

Youthful party vice chairman Wang Hung-wen, who had given the report on the revision of the

party constitution on behalf of the Central Committee at the Tenth Party Congress in August 1973, did not gain a government post.

Only a single military figure, Peking Military Region Commander Chen Hsi-lien, was included in the list of vice premiers. This contrasts with four who served in this capacity before the Cultural Revolution.

Li Te-sheng, who lost his job as head of the army's political department and was severely criticized last year, has been downgraded and is listed with the ordinary Politburo members. Contrary to previous practice, the defense minister is not now a vice premier. These changes indicate that the military has been further circumscribed in its political role.

Even more striking is the downgrading of the political "left." With the possible exception of Chang Chun-chiao, who rose to prominence during the Cultural Revolution but has long since seemed to have moderated his political views, no easily recognizable leftist was named vice premier. The two most prominent leftists, Chiang Ching and Yao Wen-yuan, both of whom had claims to important government jobs, were passed over.

There are now 29 ministries, compared with the 40 that existed before the Cultural Revolution. Some 15 new ministers were appointed, 6 of whom held vice-ministerial rank before the Cultural Revolution. Two former provincial leaders are now ministers and most of the other new ministerial appointees held high rank before the congress. Most ministers are veteran bureaucrats, a number of whom were severely criticized during the Cultural Revolution.

The man in the sensitive job of minister of education falls into this category; he was secretary general of the State Council before the Cultural Revolution. Almost none of the ministers could be considered "youthful" or--with the possible exception of the new minister of culture--"leftist."

The position of state chairman, which had been held by the disgraced Liu Shao-chi and had figured prominently in the Lin Piao affair, has been abolished. According to Chang Chun-chia's speech, this and other constitutional revisions were designed to strengthen the party's control over the state structure.

The new government constitution, which is less than one third the length of the old one, repeats the fundamentals of moderate economic policies.

- --In agriculture, the production brigade, the lowest of the three organizational levels within the commune, remains the basic accounting unit, as has been the case since the failure of the Great Leap Forward.
- --Private plots and individual non-collective labor are retained.
- --The constitution repeats the standard formulation that agriculture is the economic "base" and industry the "leading factor."

Compromise is evident in articles that guarantee the right to criticize officials and policies through public debates and wall posters and state that revolutionary committees will remain as permanent government bodies. Both provisions appear to be sops to the political left.

Chang Chun-chiao's speech did provide a hint that there may be friction ahead. He noted that while state enterprises have the form of socialist ownership, in some cases leadership is not in the hands of real Marxists and the worker masses. The implication of this phrase is not clear, but it may mean that new political attacks may develop as the "New Leap" economic campaign now apparently beginning gathers steam.

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25X1	New Year's in the Provinces	
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	The turnout in the provinces on New Year's was smaller and was reported in less detail than	•
25X1	than on National Day, October 1st but generally in	25X
20/(1	keeping with the low-key celebration last year. The highlight of the holiday was the identifica-	
	tion of two new provincial first secretaries, Chiang Wei-ching in Kiangsi and Liao Chih-kao	
	in Fukien.	
	Chiang and Liao are veteran civilian cadre with long experience in provincial administration,	
	as are the three other provincial bosses appointed in the last year: Chao Tzu-yang in Kwangtung, Pai	
	Ju-ping in Shantung, and Peng Chung in Kiangsu. Both Chiang and Liao face a tough challenge in	
	asserting their authority in their new provinces. Armed clashes between competing factions have been	
25X1	reported in Kiangsi	25X ²
	A similar situation exists	
	in Fukien, where rival groups are split over loy- alty to the pre - Cultural Revolution first sec-	
	retary, Yeh Fei, who was rehabilitated 17 months ago.	
	Chiang's and Liao's status as rehabilitated	-
	former first secretaries may further complicate their positions. Some figures who were purged	
	during the Cultural Revolution apparently have had difficulty adjusting when returned to	Ĭ.
25X1	responsible positions.	25X
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lesser posts and were only later promoted to the top spot. Chiang and Liao are the first to go directly from Peking to a vacant first secretaryship. Peking will undoubtedly monitor their performances closely.

The appointments in Kiangsi and Fukien leave only three provinces without a publicly designated leader: Liaoning, Anhwei, and Hupeh. Liaoning and Anhwei are closely associated with politburo member and party vice chairman Li Te-sheng. who is a military man, was heavily criticized during the anti-Confucius campaign, and for a time his political survival was in question. still apparently has powerful enemies in Peking, and his presence in Liaoning as Shenyang Military Region commander is probably complicating the appointment of a new civilian first secretary there. This is possibly true in Anhwei as well, where his associate Sung Pei-chang is the ranking party secretary and military man. The badly factionalized politics in Hupeh are probably complicating that appointment.

Accounts of holiday gatherings in other provinces were notably scanty. The whereabouts—and fates—of Heilungkiang first secretary Wang Chia—tao, Shansi first secretary Hsieh Chen—hua, Canton Military Region political commissar Jen Ssu—Chung, and Lanchow Military Region commander Han Hsien—chu remain unclear, since both their home provinces and Peking failed to publish a detailed account of the local festivities. The four senior military men were all under poster attack during the anti—Confucius campaign and were unexpectedly present in Peking on National Day, possibly to answer to central authorities for their past conduct. Three other provincial personalities who were also in Peking last National Day—Sinkiang Military

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NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS IN THE PROVINCES

Size of Comment Turnout Led By Turnout Province Sung Pei-chang, the Anhwei Large ranking secretary 25X1 Chekiang Liao Chih-kao identified as the new Small Ting-chun, Foochow Fukien MR commander first secretary. Chang Lin-chih, a Heilungkiang Small provincial party secretary Keng Chi-chang, the Honan Large ranking secretary 25X1 Hopeh No details of the turnout reported by the province Hunan No details of the turnout reported by the province Hupeh 25X1 Inner Mongolia No details of the turnout reported by the province Kansu Chiang identified as the new first Chiang Wei-ching Small Kiangsi secretary in Kiangsi. Those in attendance were identified in Small Peng Chung Kiangsu an unusual manner -- as responsible persons of the Revolutionary Committee only; there was no mention of the provincial party committee. To date, Penwho has been identified as chairman of To date, Peng, the Revolutionary Committee, has not been identified as first secretary of the party committee, the more powerful post. In the past, these two jobs have been held concurrently. Chen Chung, a minor Small Kirin municipal official No details of the turnout reported by the province Kwangsi No details of the turnout reported by the province Kwangtung Li Li, a deputy secretary of the party committee Kweichow Sma 1.1 Li Te-sneng, Shenyang Liaoning Large MR commander No details of the turnout reported by the province Ningsia Shanghai No details of the turnout reported by the province Shansi Pai Ju-ping, first secretary Large Shantung No details of the turnout reported by the province Shensi No details of the turnout reported by the province Sinkiang No details of the turnout reported by the province Szechwan Small Hsia Yu-hsien, deputy Tibet commander Tibet MD No details of the turnout reported by the province Tientsin

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No details of the turnout reported by the province

Tsinghai

Yunnan

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Region commander Yang Yung and Liaoning party figures Mao Yuan-hsin and Chang Shu-te--were back in their respective provinces on New Year's. Unlike the others, they were never mentioned as targets of the anti-Confucius campaign.

A New Accomplice for Lin Piao?

Chen Hsi-lien, politburo member and commander of the politically sensitive Peking Military Region, was apparently criticized by historical analogy in several articles appearing in major domestic publications last fall. The criticism points up the current effort to further reduce military political power in general and the influence of certain military region commanders in particular.

Both these objectives became a major focus of the anti-Lin, anti-Confucius campaign last July. At that time, posters attacking Chen and politburo member Hsu Shih-yu, who now commands the Canton Military Region, began to appear with some frequency, while poster criticisms of other national and provincial leaders were on the wane. Attacks against Chen and Hsu had not been prominent during the earlier wave of poster criticisms. In the case of Hsu, the poster attacks have continued in his former bailiwick, Nanking. The attacks against Chen and Hsu, and the continued stress on enhancing party control over the military in domestic media, appear to be part of a continuing tug of war between civilian moderates and certain regional commanders and their allies at the center.

One of the themes of the anti-Chen articles is that Han Hsin, a "senior general" in the Han Dynasty who is clearly identified as a Lin Piao figure, plotted with a regional military commander named Chen Hsi. This man's surname is the same character as that of Chen Hsi-lien. Moreover, one article notes that Chen Hsi commanded troops in the state of Chao, north of the capital. Chen Hsi-lien, of course, commanded the Shenyang Military Region in northeast China for years before his rotation

to Peking. The article also alludes to the fact that the regional commander was in charge of the troops defending the border against the Huns (i.e., the USSR), and that he conspired with the Huns through others to try to overthrow the government. Lin Piao stands accused of conspiring with the Soviets in an attempt to seize power, and the article seems designed to link Chen Hsi-lien with Lin's alleged plot.

The charges, which appeared in October and November, are ominous enough by themselves. They are further underscored, however, by an article in the November Red Flag by Lo Ssu-ting. This article attacks, in the strongest terms, persons and groups during the Northern Sung period who wanted to capitulate to the aggressors from the North. One group that received heavy fire was the "big landlord diehards." Many previous articles in the anti-Confucius campaign have established the parallel between the landlords or feudal princes and the military region commanders.

The charge that Chen Hsi-lien conspired with Lin does not seem to have validity. Chen was one of the first military leaders to reappear after the Lin affair, and he played a major role in the subsequent investigations. Chen may well have favored a less intransigent stance toward the Soviets, however—after all, he bore responsibility for defending Manchuria against Soviet attacks. In this event, his stance in this issue could now be the basis for an effort to undermine his position by linking him—however transparent the real evidence—to Lin. At the least, the effort to brand Chen a covert Lin supporter brings considerable pressure to bear against him, and this may have been the objective in the short term.

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Like other civilian and military figures, Chen survived serious political charges in 1974. Now that the National People's Congress has been held, it is likely that Peking will return to the problem of civil-military relations, and it would not be surprising to see the charges against Chen and others revived. While Chen was the only military man to be named a vice-premier--an honor that even the new Defense Minister did not enjoy--his transfer from Shenyang, where he was seemingly immune, to Peking in December 1973 may yet lead to a reduction in his political position.

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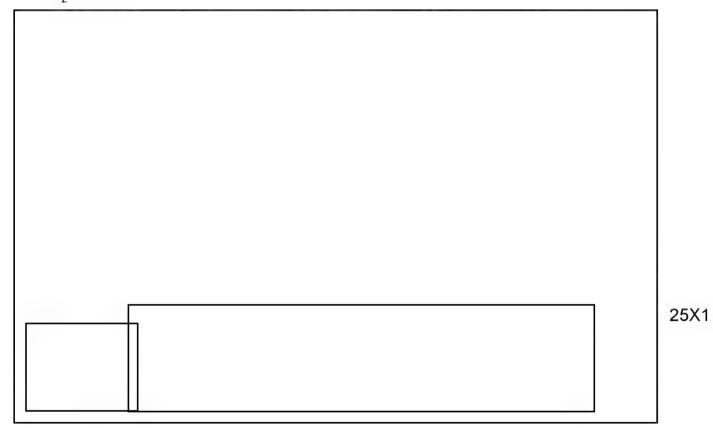
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According to the West German press, Strauss also went so far as to hint at overlapping Peking-Bonn interests in restraining Soviet strategic ambitions.

Strauss said that the continuing division of Germany threatened European security, and he praised Chinese endorsement of eventual German reunification. The Chinese have been unable to elicit public support for their views on this subject from several European visitors over the months, including the chairman of the Christian Democrats—a major opposition party—Helmut Kohl who visited Peking last September.

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Western Troubles Hurt Trade Balance

Worldwide inflation is pushing up China's import costs while stagnation is cutting the demand for its exports. China's deficit with the West in 1974 is estimated at \$750 million. The US and Japan caused most of the deficit--\$700 million and \$500 million, respectively.

Peking has taken steps to reduce payments for imports. Several contracts for foodstuffs, fertilizers, cotton, and steel were canceled or postponed before the Fall Canton Trade Fair. Peking ordered state-trading corporations to purchase only the most essential technology and equipment at the fair. Highest priority went to imports of petroleum, mining, and food-processing equipment. Since the fair, however, Peking has asked suppliers to speed up grain deliveries, reflecting concern over a harvest that fell short of expectations.

In addition to curtailing imports, China is attempting to switch from cash payments to short-term credits for some of its major commodity

purchases.

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China is also trying to increase exports by lowering prices for its traditional products—silk, textiles, and handicraft goods. The export drive, however, has come at a time when world demand for many of these products is declining.

Peking hopes that oil exports will provide a growing source of foreign exchange. Oil exports of 4.5 million tons last year were three times the 1973 level and earned \$420 million. Oil exports may reach 11 million tons this year, earning \$800 to \$900 million.

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New Twist for an Ola Slogan

rhe phrase calls to mind the frantic and destructive economic activity of the "Great Leap Forward" that so seriously set back economic development from 1958 to 1960. There is no evidence that the new leap heralds a return to those earlier radical policies, but the appearance of the phrase has caused much speculation in China watching circles.

Chinese propaganda has contained vague refer-

surfaced periodically in routine propaganda broadcasts from a number of different provinces, suggesting that the phrase is part of some central document. It has not been featured in the national media, however, as would normally be expected. Even provincial references to the new leap have been sporadic and without elaboration.

The new leap forward may be just a fresh slogan in the seven-month-old campaign to boost sagging worker morale and thereby increase production. The phrase generally is seen in formulas calling on cadre to step up production to welcome the new leap forward in 1975.

do not seem to indicate that radical new economic policies are in the works, although some adjustments in current production plans are clearly being made.

Other observers, however, have suggested that the new leap could be a leftist initiative that may even culminate in a higher level of agriculture collectivization, long resisted by Chinese peasants. A recent editorial in the Hunan provincial paper can be cited as evidence: the editorial stressed

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the "inevitable trend" toward complete collectivization, and demanded that cadre and peasant accept this unpopular fact. Agriculture was completely collectivized during the Great Leap, but China's leaders were forced to retreat as the Great Leap collapsed.

The Chinese for years have tacitly treated the original leap as an abysmal failure and in their present economic difficulties, it is unlikely they would turn to unpopular policies that had failed in the past. Moreover, the Hunan editorial states that the present level of collectivization "suits the political and economic conditions, and warns against "blindly" increasing collectivization -- a "leftist error." There may be some increased emphasis on working collective holdings in comparison to private plots, and responsibility for certain functions that can be better handled at higher levels -- e.g., water conservancy projects -- may be transferred from production teams to parent production brigades or communes, but an upgrading of the overall level of collectivization is much less likely. In any case, the views in the Hunan editorial are apparently local ones. So far, they have not appeared in other provinces nor have they even been repeated in Hunan.

Chang Chun-chiao's report to the 4th National People's Congress endorsed current economic policies, including the present level of collectivization. It did not mention the "new leap," but material subsequent to the congress may help illuminate the "new leap forward" and further clarify economic policy in general.

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Love the Army--But Love the Party Even More

A new and potentially significant aspect of Peking's continuing drive to reduce the power of provincial military men has recently been revealed in provincial circulars issued in conjunction with the annual "Love the Army and Cherish the People" campaign. Civilian government and party organizations as well as military units routinely profess their mutual support under the overall principle of party control over the army.

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differences have emerged in the degree to which military regions have endorsed the subordination of military units to civilian party committees at corresponding levels, indicating that the idea has encountered resistance.

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within the military hierarchy were to remain unchanged, various military headquarters and units must "regard themselves as departments of military affairs of local party committees of the same level and consciously accept the leadership" of these committees. Moreover, the circular specifically stated that all field armies must accept the leadership of the provincial party committee. This was a new theme and suggested a move to make field armies, which are under the command of the military region, more responsive to the direction of civilian party authorities in the provinces in which the units are stationed.

egion. Belole regional party bureaus were abolished, they were a check on military regions, which are of higher administrative rank than most provinces. Now, this ranking, plus the multi-provincial composition of most military regions, gives the regional commanders some autonomy from provincial party leaders. Furthermore, some regional commanders are members of the politburo or the central committee and outrank or at least equate with the rank of provincial party leaders. Finally, in provinces that suffer from provincial strife or lack designated heads, troop commanders are often persons to be cultivated rather than ordered around. All these factors have made it difficult for the divided leadership to force the genie of military political power back into the bottle.

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The United Nations: Disappointment

The Chinese gave the recently concluded General Assembly session low marks and were particularly disappointed by the behavior of the Third World countries. Although the poorer nations voted as a bloc more than ever before, they split ranks when it came to support for the Chinese-backed resolutions on Korea and Cambodia—the most important items on the agenda as far as Peking was concerned.

The General Assembly also took actions that diluted China's anti-Soviet efforts. Although Peking co-sponsored resolutions affirming Palestinian rights and inviting the Palestine Liberation Organization to participate in General Assembly work as an observer, this stemmed from a desire to keep pace with Third World sentiment rather than genuine enthusiasm. Indeed, the Chinese did not lobby at all for the resolutions.

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To Peking's dismay, Third World countries went along with several less important proposals backed by the Soviets. On a number of disarmament resolutions, China either had to go down to defeat with the minority or acquiesce to popular opinion. The only bright spot was the passage of a resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia, a move that would be in the interest of China and Pakistan. The

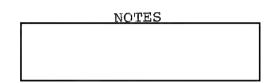
Chinese were hoping to use the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties to rally the underdeveloped world against the super powers. It turned out, however, that Peking was forced to vote for the charter while expressing sharp criticism of certain articles that it said reflected Soviet input. In reporting the debate, NCNA cataloged Peking's reservations at some length and characterized certain provisions as "compromising" and "irrational."

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It is improbable that the Chinese will significantly downgrade the UN as part of their foreign policy orchestration. At the same time, the results of the General Assembly session may give pause to any plans Peking may have had to increase the UN's role as a forum for rallying the Third World.

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Chiang Ching's public activities tend to run in streaks. She often punctuates periods of activity with unexplained absences. Her return to view on January 2 after being out of sight for a month was, in its own unique way, characteristic. One important aspect of her re-emergence was unusual—she attended a banquet. The affair was in honor of E. F. Hill, visiting Australian Communist Party head. Previously, Madame Mao did not normally attend banquets for visiting dignitaries, but kept her name in the public eye by showing up at picture—taking sessions or cultural performances.

The banquet for Hill was hosted jointly by Wang Hung-wen, Chang Chun-chiao, and Chiang Ching. Her presence at the banquet--like an earlier NCNA release in late September, which noted that Chiang had "entrusted" the Cultural Group under the State Council to give a soiree for Mrs. Marcos of the Philippines, and her mention along with Premier Chou by Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien in his banquet toast to Mrs. Marcos--suggested that she was attempting to gain a government post at the National People's Congress. If so her efforts failed. She clearly still has many enemies and she has continued to be attacked by historical analogy in domestic media articles.

* * *

Peking has apparently added to the top leadership ranks of the army's General Political Department. Analysis of the name list of those attending the January 15 memorial service for late vice premier

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25X1	Li Fu-chun suggests that Liang Pi-yeh is a denuty director of the department	25X1
	Liang was a deputy director of the GPD prior to his fall early in the Cultural Revolution. He was paraded through the streets of Peking in early 1967 along with former marshal Lo Jui-ching, former Peking mayor Peng Chen, and other "capitalist roaders." Liang was close to former Central-south Bureau chief and politburo member Tao Chu. Tao has been widely rumored as marked for rehabilitation, but has not re-emerged. Since Liang's return to the active ranks came over a year and a half after his initial reappearance, it does not necessarily foreshadow the return of Tao.	25X ²
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	In an effort to make the down-to-the-country- side program more attractive to local youth, Kwang- tung officials last July launched a series of incentives, including one that allowed one child of a retiring urban worker to leave the countryside		
25X1	and take the retiring parent's job.	25X1	
25X1	has now killed the whole scheme on the grounds that it did nothing to relieve the urban population crunchone of the goals of the down-to-the-country-side program. The veto was just short of categorical. Peking did hold out the possibility that something like the Kwangtung plan could become part of	25X1	
	the program "when the present phasecomes to a close"in 1980.	25X ²	
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CHRONOLOGY

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December 18		•
December 20	Chinese trade exhibition opens	•
	in Manila.	25X1
	Sino-Finn trade agreement for 1975 signed in Helsinki.	25X1
	Sino-Swiss trade agreement signed in Bern.	25X1
	Vice Foreign Trade Minister Chen Chieh signs 1975 Sino-Czech trade and payments agreement in Prague.	
December 20- 25	Thai trade delegation, led by Deputy Commerce Minister Prasong Sukhum, visits Peking and meets with Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien and Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua.	25X1
December 21	Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Hao Chung-shih arrives in Upper Volta; travels to Chad on December 31.	25X1
	Li Hsien-nien and Foreign Trade Minister Li Chiang attend signing of scientific and technical pro- tocol between China and Romania.	
December 23	China signs medical protocol with Senegal.	25X1

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December 23	Romanian airline inaugurates weekly flights to Peking.
December 28	Chinese economic and technical delegation arrives in Vientiane for "friendly visit."
	Agreement providing for 1975 gratis economic aid to the Viet Cong government signed by Foreign Trade Minister Li Chiang in Peking.
January 3-8	Dutch Foreign Minister Van der Stoel visits Peking; hosted by Chiao Kuan-hua and meets with Chou En-lai and Teng Hsiao- ping.
January 5-10	Thai delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Chatchai,
January 6	visits China; meets Premier Chou En-lai on January 8. China establishes diplomatic relations with Botswana.
	Maltese Prime Minister Mintoff visits China; meets with Mao, Chou En-lai, Li Hsien-nien and Chiao Kuan-hua.

25X1 2nd plenum of the tenth central com-January 8-10 mittee. Teng Hsiao-ping elevated to politburo standing committee, named a party vice-chairman. Discussed NPC preparatory work, and submitted a list of nominees for the standing committee of the NPC and the State Council, the draft revised text of the state constitution, and reports on the constitution and the govern-25X1 ment to the NPC. Vice Minister of Fuel and Chemical January 9 Industry Tang Ko departs Mexico for 25X1 Trinidad and Tobago. Vice-Premier Li Fu-chun, veteran economic planner, died. Premier Chou En-lai presided over a memorial service on January 15 at which Teng 25X1 Hsiao-ping gave a speech. 25X1 The head of West Germany's Christian January 12 Socialistic Union Franz Josef Strauss begins visit to China; sees Mao outside Peking and holds talks with Chou En-lai, Teng Hsiao-ping and Chiao 25X1 Kuan-hua. 25X1

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January 13	Malaysia's first ambassador to the PRC, Hashim Bin Sultan, arrives in	
	Peking.	25X1
January 15	Japanese Liberal Democratic Party leader Shigeru Hori arrives in Peking	
	for seven-day visit.	25X1
January 16	Preliminary talks on Sino-Japanese peace and friendship treaty open in Tokyo with Ambassad <u>or Chen Chu</u>	
	heading Chinese side.	25X1
	Chou En-lai meets with Japanese eco- nomic delegation in Peking hospital.	
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	Sino-Japanese peace treaty negotiations resume in Tokyo; Chinese ambassador to	
	Japan, Chen Chu, heads Chinese dele- gation.	25X1

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